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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 IO-13 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 /125 W
----------123288 190530Z /21
R 161330Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 641
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1136

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: A) STATE 141940; B) 77 STATE 243256

1. SUMMARY: MADAGASCAR WILL TAKE A HARD LINE AT OAU MEETINGS ON PROBLEM OF RHODESIA UNLESS PATRIOTIC FRONT SOFTENS ITS OWNSTAND. END SUMMARY.

2. I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTION IN REF A ON JUNE 16 WITH DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, HENRY RAZAFINJATOVO. BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL, HAROLD PLUMACHER, A GERMAN CITIZEN, WAS INSTRUCTED FROM DAR ES SALAAM NOT RPT NOT TO ACCOMPANY ME AS UK HIGH COMMISSION (UKHC) HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO BRIEF HIM PROPERLY ON THE QUESTION. FOR DAR ES SALAAM: PLUMACHER ASKS THAT THIS MESSAGE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO UKHC.

3. RAZAFINJATOVO'S REACTION WAS NEGATIVE.WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING OUR CONCERN WITH KEEPING POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS ALIVE HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT NEVGOIATION ROUTE WAS DEAD IN VIEW OF IAN SMITH'S INTRANSIGENCE, PARTICULARLY ON THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. HE SAID MADAGAACAR'S POSITION ON ANY OAU REWOLUTIONS WOULD BE FORMULA
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TED ON THE SPOT AT KHARTOUM AFTER CORRIDOR CONSULTATIONS BUT THAT THE MAJOR FACTOR WOULD BE THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SINCE THE LATTER WAS RECOGNIZED BY MADAGASCAR AND THE OAU AS EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE MADAGASCAR WOULD HATE TO GO ALONG WITH THE POSITION TAKEN BY FRONT ON THE DESIRE-ABILITY OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. IF NKOMO SAID HE WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE FURTHER THEN MADAGASCAR AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE

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TO BACK HIM AND WOULD PROBABLY ENDORSE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
INTENSIFIED ARMED STRUGGLE AS ONLY ROUTE TO INDEPENDENCE.

4. I REMINDED RAZAFINHATOVO THAT FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS SUPPORTED
OUR PROPOSAL FOR ROUND TABLE TALKS AND COMMENTED THAT I FOUND IT
STRANGE FOR MADAGASCAR TO PUT SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THEOPINION
OF THE FRONT WHEN OTHER AFRICANS SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSALS AND
STRONGLY FAVORED FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. HE AGREED THAT SOME
AFRICANS STILL HAD HOPE FOR NEGOTIATION ROUTE BUT SAID THAT MADAGASCA
R
WAS PESSIMISTIC AND REPEATED THAT ITS POSITION AT OAU WOULD LARGELY
DEPEND UPON THAT OF FRONT.

5. COMMENT: POSITION SET FORTH BY RAZAFINJATOVO IS TO BE
EXPECTED GIVEN MADAGASCAR'S CONCERN TO BE IN HE VANGUARD OF PROGRESS
IVE AFRICAN STATS AND TH LARGE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION GIVEN HERE BY
GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA TO SOUTH AFRICAN INTRANSIGENCE AND ITS
NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES AGAINST MADAGASCAR AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION
ONLY WAY MALAGASY POSITION COULD BE CHANGED WOULD BE BY FRONT ITSELF.
AS RAZAFINJATOVO NOTED MADAGASCAR HAD ONLY ACEPTED ANGLO-AMERICAN
PLAN IN FALL OF 1977 WHEN THE FRONT ITSELF HAD COME OUT IN FAVOR
OF IT. (REF B)
BARRETT

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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